

The Nominated Sites

34 sites nominated by the public as potential Idaho state parks
Summer 2006

East Idaho State Park Site Selection Committee



East Idaho State Park Site Selection Criteria

Access

- Distance
- Convenience
- Connectivity desirable
- Terrain
- Infrastructure (such as utility availability)

New Opportunity

- Improvement of recreational opportunities

Multiple Use

- Water desirable
- Four seasons

Outstanding Resource

- Variety
- Irretrievable loss
- Historical desirable

Availability

- Cost
- Ownership
- Donation

Capacity

- Future expansion desirable

Sustainability

- Ability to charge fees

Access, New Opportunity and Multiple Use were the most important, in the committee's view. Outstanding Resource and Availability were next most important. Capacity and Sustainability were third in importance.

Rising River

Location: Three miles from the I-15 Rose Exit, on the Snake River, midway between Firth and Blackfoot

Ownership: Private, willing seller.

Description: 577 acres of largely undisturbed native riverine habitat along a 4 ½ mile stretch of the Snake River. About 40 acres has been farmed. The remainder has been grazed annually. Little, if any, public recreation has taken place along this stretch. Wetland habitat is significant. Vegetation is largely native, consisting of healthy stands of black cottonwood interspersed with cedar, willow, currant bushes, etc.. Wildlife includes elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, turkeys, waterfowl, fox, raccoons, and bald eagles. The Snake River is home to Yellowstone cutthroat, brown and rainbow trout. The fishery compares well with the South Fork of the Snake. The site is bordered on the north by the Aberdeen Springfield Canal. Foliage along the canal is low but lush. The site could accommodate three or more group camps suitable for scout and church groups, and family reunions, as well as RV camping. Picnicking, fishing, boating, hiking and wildlife viewing would be major recreational activities. Other potential activities include mountain biking, Frisbee golf, and cross-country skiing in the winter. The latter could be combined with one or more yurts for an overnight experience. There is potential for a wetlands and wildlife interpretive center. Potential exists for canoe and kayak camping. Nearby city, county and federal properties offer a realistic chance for developing a bikepath from Firth to Blackfoot, a distance of more than ten miles.

Ranking: Number one at 100 points, largely because of proximity to area population centers, the opportunity to provide a major new area for recreation, and the potential for future development, including bike paths.

Negatives: Some invasives are present, notably Russian olive and thistle. A prefabricated concrete bridge would need to be placed to accommodate RVs. Facilities would need to be protected from occasional flooding by utilizing raised and flow-through structures.



Portneuf Falls/Lava Hot Springs

Location: Less than one mile from US 30 east of Lava, about 13 miles east of I-15 Exit 47

Ownership: Private, nearby BLM and Forest Service

Description: Private property which will be compromised by a new route for US 30. At least 277 acres are available, mostly adjacent to and on the west side of the Portneuf River. The property is mostly an upland meadow, with part of the parcel extending over a ridge. A Fish and Game wildlife management area lies across the river. Several unique water falls occur on the river. Algae growth in the river precipitates calcium carbonate minerals in layers that grow slowly in height. That backs up the river, forming a reef over which water flows and drops. The falls range in size from six or eight inches to about ten feet. Yellowstone cutthroat and German brown trout are present in the river. Beaver, muskrat, deer, elk, raccoon and waterfowl inhabit the area year round. Sandhill cranes are common in the area. Surrounding properties range from riparian to sagebrush plain and juniper uplands.

Ranking: Second at 92 points. The site would provide a new recreation opportunity, year-round recreation, has a willing seller and provides ample opportunity for expansion.

Negatives: The nearby railroad is active day and night making the development of camp grounds problematic. Already bisected by a roadway, new construction would trisect the property. That construction would also bring an already busy highway and its noise closer.



Jefferson Lake

Location: One mile north of Rigby, off US 20

Ownership: Jefferson County, private

Description: As proposed, the site would be 130 acres split roughly in half by SH 20. The already partially developed Jefferson County Recreation Area is popular for walking, jogging, cycling, in-line skating, swimming, floating, camping and picnicking. Much of the recreation area is taken up by a shallow lake featuring two small islands. It is surrounded by bike and walking paths, features a large beach and includes ample parking for current use. Future plans include an amphitheater, skate park, botanical gardens and more. Acquisition of the property across the highway would be key for park expansion. The owners of that property have not been contacted regarding its potential purchase. The proposal envisions a pedestrian bridge crossing the highway and joining the parcels.

Ranking: Third at 85 points. The site scored well because of proximity to population and traffic. It has some well developed facilities.

Negatives: Even with the acquisition of private property the site would be quite small. Though proximity to travelers is a plus, the busy bisecting highway in this case would be a major obstacle. Expansion beyond 130 acres is unlikely.



Beaver Dick Park/River Butte

Location: Located about 5 miles west of Rexburg on Highway 33

Ownership: Madison County

Description: Beaver Dick Park is maintained by the Madison County Parks and Recreation Department. It was a project of the Idaho Transportation Department and the Rexburg Rotary Club. It is a 12 acre preserve situated on the west bank of the Henry's Fork of the Snake River that provides boat access, camping, a children's play area and picnicking. The adjacent 950 acre Cartier Slough Wildlife Management Area is home to numerous waterfowl, upland game such as partridge and doves, big game such as moose and white-tailed deer, and furbearers such as beaver, mink and fox. Nongame species such as osprey and bald eagles are commonly seen. The small park was named after "Beaver Dick," Richard Leigh, who was one of the last of the real mountain men of the valley. Nearby (but not adjacent) BLM lands include Menan Butte. Also nearby, Market Lake is a Fish and Game Wildlife Management Area. The proposal envisions creating connecting pathways from Beaver Dick to Menan Butte. The feasibility of acquiring private property to make a connection to Menan Butte is unknown.

Ranking: Fourth at 84 points. The site ranked well because of its proximity to major population areas and a major highway.

Negatives: The existing site is much too small for a state park. Utilizing adjacent Fish and Game land could provide some additional developable acreage, but would significantly change the use of the WMA, which is managed as a natural area.



Pathway Between Cities

Location: Along the Snake River between the major cities in the valley

Ownership: Private, city, county, BLM, Forest Service, Tribal

Description: This proposal is for a biking and walking path along a greenbelt stretching variously from Rexburg to American Falls and from Palisades to Blackfoot. The vision is ambitious, but not outside the realm of possibility in the coming years. The Treasure Valley, for instance, has a bikepath and greenbelt that stretches from Lucky Peak State Park to Eagle, a distance of nearly 20 miles with continuing acquisition and development envisioned for the future. Such an amenity in Eastern Idaho would incorporate existing pathways in Idaho Falls, Blackfoot and other valley cities.

Ranking: Tied for fifth at 82 points. This proposal was given the benefit of the doubt during the rating process, i.e., since the location is non-specific, raters assumed it would be near a population center and assumed land owners would be willing sellers. Realistically, there are many land owners who are unwilling to sell for a project like this.

Negatives: Cost. Time (such a project would take many years to complete). Land owners unwilling to sell or provide easements.



Rose Pond

Location: Located near the Rose Exit about five miles from Blackfoot

Ownership: Bingham County

Description: The 40-acre site of several old gravel pits, now filled with water from the Snake River. It is a sportsmen's access site for fishing, and features outdoor and indoor archery courses. A very well-done 10-mile trail connects the site with Jensen's Grove, in Blackfoot. Once owned by the BLM, it now belongs to Bingham County.

Ranking: Tied for fifth at 82 points. Proximity to a major highway and nearby population centers helped it score well, as did the potential for future connectivity.

Negatives: The existing site is small. Future development would require considerable application of topsoil.



Jensen's Grove

Location: Located in Blackfoot, near the downtown Interstate exit

Ownership: City of Blackfoot

Description: Jensen's Grove provides one of the most scenic city entrances in Idaho, when the lake is full. Recreational activities include boating, swimming, picnicking and bike riding. At least 10 miles of pathway connect the park with Rose Pond, passing by Airport Park and the municipal golf course.

Ranking: Tied for seventh at 80 points. Proximity to the interstate and major population areas helped the site rank well. It is well cared for and offers multiple recreation activities. Connectivity is good.

Negatives: Issues concerning water rights have often emptied the lake in recent years. Little room for future development on site.



Kelly Canyon/Heise

Location: Located just off US 26 about 28 miles east of Idaho Falls

Ownership: BLM, Private, Forest Service

Description: Several nominations came in for sites in this area. Most were fairly non-specific. Kelly Canyon Ski Area is located mostly on BLM and Forest Service ground, though the base is private. Because of favorable winds and some steep slopes facing into them, hang gliders use the area. There are several popular hiking, OHV, cross-country skiing and equestrian trails in the area. Snowmobiling is popular in the winter. The snowmobile community would like to have access to groomed trails from private lands in the Kelly Canyon area. Access is currently available on a windswept bench west of there. Heise Hot Springs is privately held. There are several private campgrounds in the area, as well as a golf course. The BLM has two primitive campgrounds on the river, as well as three boater access sites.

Ranking: Tied for seventh at 80 points. Multiple recreation activities, close to population areas.

Negatives: Mix of private ownership and multiple agencies. Difficult to find an available site that would add to the recreation opportunities in the area, which already serves the population well.



Teton Dam Site

Location: Located about 20 miles east of Rexburg

Ownership: Bureau of Reclamation

Description: Site of the ill-fated Teton Dam, just above where the Teton River comes out of its canyon. The failure of the dam left some rubble and large rocks scattered on the floor of the canyon downstream, but there are areas that would be suitable for development of a campground and fishing opportunities. The remains of the dam offer the potential for interpretation at some level, whether from a viewpoint with spotting scope and static displays, or an enclosed visitor center. There is a gravel service road that winds down into the canyon. It could be upgraded to accommodate RVs, but would always be a slow, steep road.

Ranking: Ninth at 79 points. Good proximity. Good fishing opportunities.

Negatives: Difficult access into canyon. Recent BOR recreation plan calls for little if any increase in public access.



Living History Park

Location: Somewhere in East Idaho

Ownership: Private, city, county, BLM

Description: The proposal is for a living history park where traditional pioneer and agricultural skills could be exhibited.

Ranking: Tied for tenth at 78 points. This proposal was given the benefit of the doubt during the rating process, i.e., since the location is non-specific, raters assumed it would be near a population center and assumed land owners would be willing sellers.

Negatives: Non-site-specific. To make a history park work, there needs to be a major facility or event closely tied to the site.



Potato Park

Location: Somewhere in East Idaho, likely Bingham County

Ownership: Private, city, county, BLM

Description: The proposal is for a park where potato artifacts could be exhibited, and farming techniques unique to the crop could be demonstrated.

Ranking: Tied for tenth at 78 points. This proposal was given the benefit of the doubt during the rating process, i.e., since the location is non-specific, raters assumed it would be near a population center and assumed land owners would be willing sellers.

Negatives: Non-site-specific. Much of this is already done at the Potato Museum in Blackfoot. Demonstrating farming techniques would be seasonal and short-term, especially harvest, which takes place in September, October, and sometimes November, which are not peak travel months.



History Park near Blackfoot

Location: Somewhere in Bingham County

Ownership: Private, city, county, BLM

Description: This proposal envisions a park to interpret the pioneer history of the area. It is likely the site would need to be purchased from a private individual, but there is the possibility of attaining BLM ground or land already owned by another government entity. An image of Blackfoot in 1909 is shown below.

Ranking: Twelfth at 75 points. This proposal was given the benefit of the doubt during the rating process, i.e., since the location is non-specific, raters assumed it would be near a population center and assumed land owners would be willing sellers.

Negatives: Non-site-specific. To make a history park work, there needs to be a major facility or event closely tied to the site.



Conant Valley

Location: Located about 40 miles east of Idaho Falls on US 26

Ownership: BLM, Forest Service, Private

Description: Nestled between the mountains along the black cottonwood-lined banks of the South Fork of the Snake River, this site is one of Idaho's most scenic. Current recreation activities include motorized and nonmotorized boating, fishing, hiking and camping. BLM sites include a fully developed visitor center, parking lot and boat ramp. Scattered BLM sites along the river offer primitive camping. All BLM sites are under Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) management, which precludes additional development. A key piece of property adjacent to the boat ramp is owned by an individual who is unwilling to sell. The Forest Service has property upstream from the BLM sites, including an RV campground near Fall Creek Falls (pictured below).

Ranking: Tied for thirteenth at 72 points. A favorite of many committee members, this site would have ranked at least fourth if it were available. The ranking is a reflection of the lack of availability of private land needed to create a park and the reluctance by BLM to change management of the site.

Negatives: Unavailable.



St. Anthony Sand Dunes

Location: Located about 8 miles from St. Anthony

Ownership: BLM

Description: The white rolling hills of sand range in height from 200 to 300 feet above the 4,900 foot valley floor. They stretch about 35 miles in length and from one to five miles in width. The BLM manages an area of about 10,000 acres for camping, OHV riding and Equestrian riding.

Ranking: Tied for thirteenth at 72 points. Often nominated by the public, this site is already under public ownership and is well managed by the BLM.

Negatives: Limited activities. State park status would add little if anything to the site.



Tetonia/Badger Creek

Location: Located about 6 miles east of Tetonia

Ownership: Private

Description: Several thousand acre site on the foothills of the Teton Range. Privately owned by Paul Allen, well known investor, philanthropist and cofounder of Microsoft. It is located near the BYU Idaho outdoor learning center. The proposal suggests we contact Mr. Allen about the possibility of a donation.

Ranking: Tied for thirteenth at 72 points.

Negatives: Acquisition is unlikely, though the agency will contact Mr. Allen.



Alexander Reservoir

Location: Located just outside of Soda Springs

Ownership: BLM, Rocky Mountain Power, City of Soda Springs, Forest Service

Description: Power reservoir near Soda Springs. Offers boating, fishing, waterskiing, picnicking. Most of the surrounding lands are privately owned, but the city has parking and boat launch facilities on the north side of the reservoir and BLM has additional lands near the dam on the south side. Those offer canyon views of the Bear River. This is prime raptor country. There are also picnic facilities and a nonmotorized boat launch just below the dam in the canyon. The area is on the Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway. There is potential for historic interpretation in the area, which includes the branching point for the Hudspeth Cutoff of the Oregon Trail.

Ranking: Sixteenth at 71 points. (NOTE: Though not originally rated among the top sites, last minute additions to the proposal convinced the committee to visit the site, which was not far from the planned tour route)

Negatives: Distance from populated areas. Fragmented land ownership.



Teton Basin

Location: Located about 76 miles from Idaho Falls in the area of Driggs and Tetonia

Ownership: Private, Fish and Game

Description: Long overlooked in favor of Jackson Hole, the Teton Basin is now filling up rapidly with second homes and retirement residences. The mountains on its three sides, however, are wilderness, backcountry, or lightly developed, with the western slope of the Tetons to its east, the Big Hole Mountains to its west and the Snake River Range on the South. The Grand Targhee ski resort is located on the West Slope of the Tetons. The often unseen feature of this spectacular valley is the Teton River, which winds luxuriously through miles of meadows. Fish and Game has provided several sportsmen's access sites in the valley, though none is large enough by itself for a state park. The bulk of the land is privately owned and increasingly expensive.

Ranking: Seventeenth at 70 points. Not in proximity to population centers or major highways.

Negatives: Land acquisition expensive.



Indian Springs

Location: Located near Rockland, about 2 miles off I-86 Exit 36

Ownership: Private

Description: The hot springs are privately owned, as is adjacent land. They are currently closed. There is a partial section of IDL land on the higher elevations above the springs. No picture available.

Ranking: Eighteenth at 69 points. Limited number of recreational activities.

Negatives: On the far edge of the committee's area of consideration. With the exception of the hot springs, it provides little more than raw land.

Gem Lake

Location: Located near Idaho Falls along the Snake River

Ownership: Private, Idaho Falls Power

Description: Difficult to tell from nomination which site is meant. Gem Lake Harbor is located south of Idaho Falls and northeast of Gem Lake Marina. A subdivision was built around a former gravel quarry with the idea of being a private lake for home owners. However, the Idaho Attorney General's office issued an opinion that because the water in the harbor is indistinguishable from that which flows in from the Snake River, Gem Lake Harbor is recognized as a man-made reservoir. One can navigate the waters in a floating device, but standing on the bank is illegal because the land is private property. No picture available.

Also called Gem Lake is a small site along the Snake River owned by Idaho Falls Power and operated by the city. This is more likely the site the nominator had in mind. It includes some boat docks and picnic areas. Nearby is a small lake set aside as a fishing pond for kids.

Ranking: Tied for nineteenth at 65 points. Proximity is excellent. Limited number of recreational activities. Already managed to an appropriate level for its size.

Negatives: Small.

Sportsman's Park

Location: About 3 miles from Aberdeen on the American Falls Reservoir

Ownership: Bureau of Reclamation, Bingham County, nearby Fish and Game

Description: This approximately 30 acre site is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation with additional land owned by Bingham County. The County operates the park, which includes a total of 29 camping sites, 17 on BOR land and 12 on County land. There are two boat ramps, a reservable picnic shelter, a swimming beach, and a one-mile paved walking trail along the edge of the reservoir. BOR also owns additional land north of the park known as "Big Hole." That land would also be potentially available for park development.

Ranking: Tied for nineteenth at 65 points. Already well managed and near its recreation capacity

Negatives: Small. Little room for expansion. Seasonal.



Market Lake

Location: About 4 miles off I-15 Exit 135

Ownership: Idaho Fish and Game

Description: The entire lake is encompassed by a Wildlife Management Area. The primary activity is wildlife viewing, with more than 200 species of birds identified in the area. No picture available.

Ranking: Twenty-first at 64 points. Already appropriately managed.

Negatives: State park status would add little if anything to the site.

Palisades

Location: Located about 60 miles from Idaho Falls and 20 miles from Alpine, Wyoming

Ownership: Forest Service, Private, Bureau of Reclamation

Description: Recreation on this 25 square mile (16,100-acre) reservoir with 70 miles of limited access shoreline is currently administered by the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Palisades' fish species include cutthroat and brown trout, Kokanee and mackinaw. The fishing season is year-round, but fluctuations in the reservoir level during the summer months result in inconsistent fishing. Spring, fall and winter ice fishing are most productive. The Forest Service offers camping on the west side of the lake. While the campgrounds are high quality, access across the dam and down to the campgrounds is narrow and twisty. There is a mixture of Forest Service, Private and Bureau of Reclamation land on the shoreline to the east.

Ranking: Twenty-second at 63 points. Already appropriately managed.

Negatives: On the far edge of the committee's area of consideration. State park status would add little if anything to the site.



Highway Pond

Location: Between I-15 and S 5th, Pocatello

Ownership: City of Pocatello

Description: Small site of some interest to local anglers. About a 40-acre gravel pit containing water seasonally. Adjacent county property could be available. Plans for the area are to make this site part of an aquifer recharge site. A park could be developed as a part of that project.

Ranking: Twenty-third at 62 points. Proximity to interstate, availability. NOTE: This was one of the sites visited by the committee (pictured below), not because it ranked high, but because there were some questions regarding it and it was near the tour route.

Negatives: Small site that would take considerable landscaping to make it useable.



Warm River

Location: Located about 17 miles from St Anthony on SH 47

Ownership: Forest Service

Description: Near Mesa Falls, the Warm River area provides fishing for brook, rainbow and cutthroat trout and whitefish. Tubing on the river is popular during the summer. The Forest Service has several primitive campgrounds in the area. It is located on a scenic byway. It is popular with snowmobilers in the winter.

Ranking: Twenty-fourth at 60 points.

Negatives: On the edge of the committee's area of consideration. Already state parks in the immediate area.



Taylor Mountain

Location: Fifteen miles from Idaho Falls

Ownership: Private, BLM, nearby Idaho Department of Lands

Description: Once a small downhill ski area, Taylor Mountain has been largely removed from public access in recent years. For the most part, it is privately owned by an owner who is not willing to sell. Public desire to see the area opened for hiking, equestrian use, OHV use and dry camping is strong, probably because of its close proximity to Idaho Falls.

Ranking: Twenty-fifth at 55 points. Often nominated, this well-located site is unavailable.

Negatives: Little water. Key private ownership. Owner unwilling to sell.



Formation Springs

Location: Five miles from Soda Springs, off SH 34

Ownership: BLM, Nature Conservancy Management

Description: In 1989, 160-acres surrounding Formation Springs was turned into a preserve. The preserve features crystal pools and a wetland complex at the base of Aspen Mountain. The terraced pools at Formation Springs are formed by cold springs that feed into them and deposit high concentrations of calcium carbonate. The pools are a place to stay for wintering wildlife, and provide a natural point of interest both geologically and biologically. The preserve also includes Formation Cave that stretches for 500 feet.

Ranking: Twenty-sixth at 54 points. Unique feature.

Negatives: Small site already developed and managed appropriately, with little opportunity for expansion.



Oneida Narrows

Location: Located about 15 miles north of Preston off SH 34

Ownership: BLM, private, Bureau of Reclamation

Description: Oneida Narrows Reservoir is created by a power generation dam on the Bear River. The reservoir has opportunities for boating, fishing, camping and wildlife viewing. Below the dam is a popular whitewater stretch of the river. There are also hot springs associated with the area. Foliage is a mix of deciduous and conifer, offering good fall color opportunities. Area terrain would lend itself to snowmobile and cross-country ski development.

Ranking: Tied for twenty-seventh at 53 points.

Negatives: Beautiful area, but distance from major population areas makes it difficult to compete for this effort.



Hell's Half Acre Area

Location: Located on I-15 about 7 miles from Blackfoot

Ownership: BLM

Description: A 4000 year old lava flow bisected by Interstate 15. Rest areas on both sides of the highway lead to a fine system of trails and interpretive signs. Just a few acres of this 222 square mile formation have been developed along with the associated rest areas.

Ranking: Tied for twenty-seventh at 53 points. Good location.

Negatives: Extremely rugged terrain virtually precludes further development.



Menan Butte

Location: About 12 miles off I-15 Exit 135

Ownership: BLM

Description: Cinder cone butte with interpretive hiking trail leading to the top. Although the butte itself is managed by BLM, surrounding land at its base is privately owned.

Ranking: Tied for twenty-seventh at 53 points. (NOTE: This site is also proposed as a part of the Beaver Dick nomination)

Negatives: Limited variety of recreational activities. BLM is reluctant to change management of the site.



Crystal Ice Cave

Location: Located about 27 miles northwest of American Falls

Ownership: National Park Service, BLM

Description: Crystal Ice Cave contains some of the most spectacular ice formations among Lava Beds many caves. Because of the sensitive nature of this cave's formations and air flow, it is open to park visitors on small ranger-guided tours only during winter months. 3.5-hour tours of six visitors each are offered every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. from December through March. This is a strenuous excursion for people 12 years and older in good physical condition. Cavers ascend a sloped ice floor with the aid of a fixed rope, crawl through holes, and negotiate boulder-strewn floors while avoiding fragile formations. Helmets, gloves, sturdy shoes, and layered clothing are required. Headlamps and kneepads are highly recommended.

Ranking: Thirtieth at 48 points. Already managed appropriately.

Negatives: Remote, small, few activities.



Wolverine Canyon

Location: 13 miles southeast of Firth

Ownership: BLM, Idaho Department of Lands, private

Description: Wolverine canyon has been a popular picnicking site since at least the 1870s. People have come mostly from nearby communities to enjoy the cool air and spectacular cliffs that crowd Wolverine Creek as it winds through The Narrows. As the name of that section of BLM land implies, the constraints to developed recreation are in the steep terrain. Few sites with land flat enough for facilities such as a campground exist. Nevertheless, adventurous citizens find them here and there, mostly along the creek. The site includes a scattering of hoodoos, several small caves and one fairly large rock shelter called Forty Horse Cave.

Ranking: Thirty-first at 39 points.

Negatives: Limited variety of recreational activities. Narrow canyon precludes development.



Big Southern Butte

Location: 26 miles SW of Arco

Ownership: BLM

Description: The name says it all. Spectacular views from the top of the butte. Popular with hang gliders. Wildlife and hiking opportunities. Used as a target while testing the big ship guns during WWII.

Ranking: Thirty-second at 39 points. Remote.

Negatives: Limited variety of recreational activities.



Chesterfield Town Site/Chesterfield Reservoir

Location: Thirty-one miles northwest of Soda Springs, about 30 miles off US 30

Ownership: Private, Tribal, BLM

Description: Chesterfield was an early Mormon settlement (1881) that was later bypassed by railroads and highways, and finally abandoned. Unlike most ghost towns, the buildings here are mostly of brick. More than 20 survive, most in good condition and many restored. The site is operated and maintained by the Chesterfield Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 organization. Nearby Chesterfield Reservoir (sometimes called Portneuf Reservoir) is very popular with fishermen. An irrigation reservoir, it is privately owned and operated for the convenience of irrigators, though Fish and Game has worked to provide limited access for anglers when the reservoir is up. About a fourth of the reservoir is on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. A small piece of BLM land serves as the major access point for boaters and fishermen.

Ranking: Thirty-third at 38 points. Remote. Well managed by a private foundation.

Negatives: Most associated land is private. Recreation is very much a secondary activity for management of the reservoir.



Packsaddle Lake

Location: Located about 30 miles west of Teton

Ownership: Forest Service

Description: Packsaddle Lake is located in the Big Hole Mountains on the western side of Teton Valley. The drive to the Packsaddle Lakes trail head and the hike itself provides unparalleled panoramic views of the Teton mountain range. The lake is relatively small, and the road into it is best taken in a four-wheel-drive. There are campsites around the lake and many opportunities for fishing and wildlife viewing.

Ranking: Thirty-fourth at 31 points. Remote. Difficult access. Already managed at an appropriate level by the Forest Service.

Negatives: Steep, narrow access would preclude use by RVs, cars.

